

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-11, 13-20 and 22-29 are pending. Claims 1-11 are allowed. Claims 13-17 are amended.

Claims 13-14 are amended to set forth assaying for a difference in PKR activity (*i.e.*, binding to NS5A, dimerization, phosphorylation, reporter gene expression, *etc.*). Support is found throughout the specification, and for example, on page 17, lines 3-31 and on page 33, lines 10-24.

Claims 15-17 are amended for proper antecedent basis.

Response to Non-Compliant Amendment

The Examiner alleges in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment that amendments to the claims have been made without being indicated as such by underlining and strikethrough.

Applicants respectfully assert that the present Notice was sent in error. In good faith, Applicants have executed a line-by-line comparison of the claims submitted in the Amendment filed on May 2, 2005 and the Amendment filed on September 26, 2005. Applicants were unable to identify where changes were made to the claims in the Amendment filed on September 26, 2005 and not indicated by underlining and strikethrough. These same amendments are again presented in the current response.

In a voicemail left by the Examiner for the undersigned on January 13, 2006, the Examiner agreed that the Notice was sent in error. Applicants thank the Examiner for reviewing the file of the present application and confirming that the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was sent in error.

Appl. No. 09/972,756
Amdt. dated January 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2005

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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